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### **NCRI Reveals**

**Details of an underground top-secret site currently used by  
the Iranian regime for research and development with  
advanced centrifuges for uranium enrichment**

**Since 2008, the Iranian regime has engaged in research and uranium  
enrichment with advanced IR-2m, IR-3 and IR-4 centrifuges under  
the cover of an Intelligence Ministry center**

#### **Introduction**

The following information is the result of a decade-long, detailed, risky and complex effort by the network of the NCRI's main component, the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK) inside Iran.

The MEK has obtained this intelligence from highly placed sources within the Iranian regime as well as those involved in the nuclear weapons projects. The process of vetting and corroborating this information involved multiple sources, acting independent of one another over a span of many years. The vetting and verification process has just been completed enabling us to reveal this information now.

#### **Executive Summary**

1. Despite the Iranian regime's claims that all of its enrichment activities are transparent and under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency, it has in fact been engaged in research and development with advanced centrifuges at a secret nuclear site called Lavizan-3, in a military base in northeast Tehran suburbs.

2. Since 2008, the Iranian regime has secretly engaged in research and uranium enrichment with advanced IR-2m, IR-3 and IR-4 centrifuge machines at this site.
3. The Iranian Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) is directly responsible for the protection and security of this complex; disguising it as a secret MOIS center, unrelated to nuclear activities, to prevent it from being identified as a secret nuclear site.
4. This site is located in an area of about 500 by 500 meters, (250,000 m<sup>2</sup>; roughly 62 acres). The primary nuclear site is buried deep underground in tunnels and underground facilities spanning about 2000 m<sup>2</sup> (0.5 acres).
5. To go to the underground site, an elevator descends several stories, deep underground and opens into a 200-meter tunnel, which leads to four parallel halls. Because the ground is inclined, the halls are deeper underground, as deep as approximately 50 meters.
6. Each of the halls is 40 by 10 meter (400 m<sup>2</sup>). The four halls are 50 meters apart from one another.
7. The halls have 3 by 3 meter and 40 centimeter-thick, radiation proof doors. There is shielding material, including lead, inside the doors to prevent radiation leak. (Enclosed is a picture of one of the shielding doors of the underground facility in Lavizan-3)
8. The underground facilities are dual layered to prevent radiation and sound leaks.
9. The Defense Ministry has built these tunnels and underground facilities under the direction of IRGC Brig. Gen. Seyyed Ali Hosseini-Tash, the then Deputy Defense Minister.
10. Kalaye Electric Company, affiliated with the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, and responsible for enrichment has overseen the construction of this site. Morteza Behzad, an engineer and key nuclear official, who played a major role in starting up the Fordo underground uranium enrichment site, was in charge of managing Lavizan-3.

## **Details of the Revelation**

1. Lavizan-3 site is used for research and development as well as uranium enrichment with advanced centrifuges.
2. Since 2008, the Iranian regime has secretly engaged in research and uranium enrichment with advanced IR-2m, IR-3 and IR-4 centrifuge machines at this site.
3. Kalaye Electric Company, affiliated with the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran has overseen the construction of this site. Kalaye Electric has been involved in uranium enrichment for the Iranian regime and pursued different parts of the construction, including the manufacturing and installation of centrifuges as well as enrichment activities<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Kalaye Electric site, located on the Damavand Highway, northeast of Tehran, was exposed by the NCRI in February 2003 and was immediately requested to be inspected by the IAEA; which was granted several months later. The IAEA discovered that the site had been a uranium enrichment testing facility after finding traces of highly enriched uranium there. Up to 50 centrifuges had been cascaded to carry out research. The research conducted at Lavizan-3 is similar to the research at Kalaye Electric before it was exposed by the NCRI.

4. Morteza Behzad, an engineer, who played a key part in starting up the underground uranium enrichment site, Fordo, near the city of Qom, and the liaison between the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and the Defense Ministry, was among the managers of Lavizan-3 site<sup>2</sup>.
5. This site is among a collection of complexes built on the orders of IRGC Brig. Gen. Seyyed Ali Hosseini-Tash<sup>3</sup>, the then Deputy Defense Minister, whose job has been to pursue the building of nuclear weapons. At the time, the entity responsible for building nuclear weapons, Center for Defensive Preparedness and Technology, was headed by Mohsen Fakhrizadeh Mahabadi, and operated under the direction of Hosseini-Tash. In recent years, the entity in charge of manufacturing nuclear weapons is called Defensive Innovation and Research Organization, known by its Farsi acronym, SPND. Hosseini-Tash is currently the deputy to the Supreme National Security Council.
6. Experts in Center for Defensive Preparedness and Technology (Fakhar Moghaddam Group), which is part of SPND, have joined senior experts of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran to carry out enrichment research. Fakhar Moghaddam Group is tasked with nuclear physics research and production of enriched uranium.

## **Ownership of the site**

1. The garrison housing this site is located within a military zone, which belonged to the Iranian Army under the Shah. It is considered a restricted military zone.
2. The land was handed over to the Prime Ministry's Office in 1972.
3. Following the 1979 revolution, the land was transferred to the Ministry of Intelligence and Security. But local residents have been told it belongs to the President's Office.

## **Location of the site**

1. This site is located in km 3 of Army Boulevard (formerly Lashkarak highway), in the northeastern suburbs of Tehran. (See the satellite imagery).
2. It is situated in a piece of land, approximately 500 by 500 m (an area of 250,000 m<sup>2</sup>, approximately 62 acres).
3. Army Boulevard (three kilometers from Araj Square) is on the north side of the site. Shahmoradi Street is to the east. Ghamar Bani-Hashem Street is to the west and residential apartments of Lavizan-3 (Khoshrou Township) are to the south of this site. Lavizan-3 Township is the residential quarters for Army commanders and entry requires special permission.

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<sup>2</sup> Morteza Behzad is a key official in the Iranian regime's nuclear program involved in starting up Fordo enrichment site near the city of Qom. He was the liaison between Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and the Defense Ministry and was included in the UN Security Council's sanctions list, (see 3 March 2008 Annex I of resolution 1803) and "designated for involvement in making centrifuge components."

<sup>3</sup> According to Hassan Rouhani's book, "National Security and Nuclear Diplomacy," Hossieni-Tash was a key member of the Nuclear Committee in the Supreme National Security Council. The NCRI exposed him in 2004 as the official responsible for nuclear weapons manufacturing in Iran.

4. There are two distinct sections at this site, separated by a wall. The northern gate of this complex at the Army Boulevard and the northeastern gate on Shahmoradi Street are always closed and only opened with prior notice and permission. But the southern gate at Shahmoradi Street, where the Matiran Company is located, is controlled by sentry guards.
5. A separate complex, 170 by 170 m is located in the southeastern part of this site. A two-story building 70 by 70 m is built in the middle of this area. According to our intelligence, one of the doors of the tunnel is underneath this building.
6. The building inside the area is white and the walls around it are built with red bricks and are about three meters tall.
7. After 2010, a six-story building was reconstructed or built from scratch in the northern section of this site. This building and several other buildings are within the larger area of this complex.

### **Front Entity to Cover Up the Site:**

1. Following the exposure of Natanz and Arak sites in August 2002, Kalaye Electric site in February 2003 and Lavizan-Shian site in May 2003 by the NCRI, based on the information from the network inside Iran of its main component organization, the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK), the MOIS conducted a security assessment. Accordingly, the regime decided to task the MOIS with the protection of its nuclear projects and facilities. One of the most important sites was the Lavizan-3 research facility. The MOIS took responsibility and specified the type of protective cover and security arrangement for it.
2. The Iranian Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) is directly responsible for the protection and security of this complex; disguising it as a secret MOIS center, unrelated to nuclear activities, to prevent it from being identified as a secret nuclear site.
3. The entire site is under the supervision of the Intelligence Ministry's Technical Directorate and consists of two sections: Jamal Complex and Matiran Company.
4. Jamal Complex is comprised of several large buildings and complexes. The main building in this complex is a six-story building northeast of the area. An Intelligence Ministry director, Sabeti is in charge of this complex. The head of security is an official named Mo'azam.
5. The second part of this complex is Matiran Company, which is located in the southern section of the garrison and is separated from the other areas by a wall.
6. Matiran Company is part of the Intelligence Ministry's Technical Directorate, and produces digital identification cards, birth certificates and other security-related cards. The advanced laser printers of the company are located in the upper floors of this square-shaped building at the site.
7. Hamid Shoaibi is the head of the Matiran Company and is also the head of "Organization of the Country's Security Documents," a part of the Intelligence Ministry.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Experts working at the Matiran Company, which is located in the square building at Lavizan-3 site include Majid Shafiee, Production Manager, Massoud Taghipour, Design Section and Abbas Khodaverdi, Chief Technical Officer.

## **Specifications of the Underground Facilities**

1. The main nuclear activities site is underground, inside the tunnels and underground facilities, spanning more than 2000 m<sup>2</sup> (0.5 acres).
2. The workshops are built underground. To get there, an elevator descends several stories deep underground and opens into a 200-meter long tunnel, which leads to four parallel halls. Because the ground is inclined, the halls are deeper in the ground, as deep as 50 meters.
3. Each of the halls is about 400 m<sup>2</sup>; 10 by 40 meters. And the parallel halls are built 50 meters apart from one another.
4. The halls have 3 by 3 m radiation proof doors that are 40 centimeters thick and weigh about 8 tons. There is shielding material inside the doors, including lead to prevent radiation leak.
5. The walls of the tunnels are dual-layered in order to prevent radiation and sound leak.
6. The underground facilities have special ventilation and air conditioning systems, which prevent the underground activities from emitting radiation and other fumes, which would expose the nature of these activities.
7. Forklifts are used to move around the equipment and material inside the tunnels.

## **The Construction Entity**

1. The Hara Company, which is a part of the Khatam al-Anbia Garrison of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, has built these tunnels. Hara has constructed other secret defense projects.<sup>5</sup> IRGC Brig. Gen. Mehdi Etessam was in charge of Hara when these tunnels were built. Ali Alizadeh was in charge of the secret defense projects of Hara and Mohsen Karimi was the Director of its Technical Directorate. Since November 2014, Karim Ganjeh has been in charge of Hara Company.
2. Intelligence indicates that excavating the tunnels began in early 2004. The underground facilities were completed around 2008. The construction took longer because Hara Company tried to be least visible and minimize the noise generated by the excavating equipment underground.
3. The underground site was built by the Defense Ministry for Brig. Gen. Seyyed Ali Hosseini-Tash, the then-Deputy Defense Minister.

## **The Site's Security Arrangements**

1. Because this site was built in a piece of land owned and controlled by the Intelligence Ministry, the MOIS maximized security measures. Since the start of construction, the Ministry made some changes to keep the nuclear activities secret.

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<sup>5</sup> Listed in an annex to U.N. Security Council Resolution 1929 of June 9, 2010, as an IRGC entity with a role "in Iran's proliferation-sensitive nuclear activities and the development of nuclear weapon delivery systems."

2. There are sentry guards at the entrance of the site and the entire complex has closed circuit monitors. There are seven sentry posts around the site, which points to maximum security.
3. During the construction of the site, several code names were used. Some agencies were told the site was “Ozgol Headquarters” of the Iranian regime’s Air Force. Local residents were told this was part of the Presidential Complex. This is very similar to the disguise used to keep the Fordo site secret. The regime had described it as an IRGC missile site, called Nour al-Mehdi Garrison.
4. Because of the sensitivity of Shahmoradi Street, the end of the street is closed with a large gate, making it a dead-end street. Only the personnel of the military centers and those residing in the same street. (In addition to Lavizan-3 site, a military residential complex, called 64-unit, an Army Garrison called Baharvar, and an electronic industry spare parts factory [among the Electronic Group factories affiliated with the Defense Ministry] are located on Shahmoradi Street.)

## **Conclusion:**

Despite the Iranian regime’s claims of transparency in its nuclear activities and that after the signing of JPOA, it was committed to cooperate with the international community, today’s intelligence makes it palpably clear that it has been continuing to lie for more than a decade and has deceived the world community. Research and Development with advanced centrifuges in highly secret sites are only intended to advance the nuclear weapons project. While the regime deceived the world into believing that it had halted its nuclear weapons program in 2003, it had been in fact heavily involved in excavating tunnels and preparing this nuclear site from 2004 to 2008. It has clearly lied. As the regime squabbles over the number of centrifuges with the P5+1, it has been secretly testing advanced centrifuges and has continued to secretly enrich uranium.

Thus, if the United States is serious about preventing the Iranian regime from obtaining nuclear weapons, it must make the continuation of the talks predicated on the IAEA’s immediate inspection of the Lavizan-3 site.

The Iranian Resistance warns that any delay in immediately inspecting Lavizan-3 will provide the regime with the opportunity to destroy the evidence. As you know, the regime has previously attempted on many occasions to eliminate any trace of its illicit activities in Lavizan-Shian, Kalaye Electric and Parchin sites.

Of course, this is not the only secret aspect of the nuclear program of Iran. The mullahs are intent on acquiring the bomb and have done their utmost to hide their agenda. Before the Iranian Resistance exposed the nuclear sites in Natanz and Arak in 2002, the regime had no intention whatsoever to declare them to the IAEA.

On October 30, 2014, Secretary Kerry said that one of the “four present pathways to a bomb for Iran” is through “covert activities,” and that “our goal is to shut off each pathway.” Our intelligence today demonstrates that the covert advancement of the nuclear program is the most serious pathway the Iranian regime is pursuing.

Therefore, if the US and its partners in P5+1 seek to block Tehran's pathway to the bomb, they must stop self-delusion. Any agreement lacking the following will fail to deny the regime the opportunity to get the bomb.

1. Complete implementation of all Security Council Resolutions.
2. Immediate halt to any enrichment and the closure of related facilities, including Natanz, Fordo and Arak.
3. Signing the Additional Protocol and the start of IAEA's snap and unconditional inspection of all sites and unhindered access to documents and experts suspected of being involved in the nuclear project.

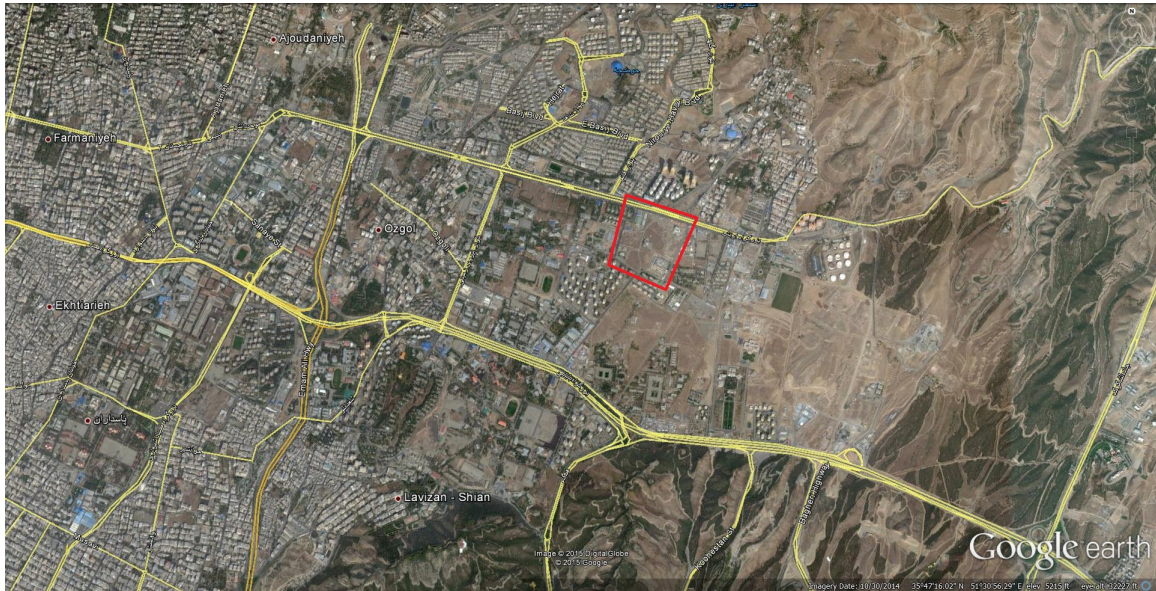
The notion that the mullahs will abandon their nuclear weapons program thru nuclear talks is a misguided narrative, which is the byproduct of the mullahs' duplicity and western economic and political expediency. Those who hope to secure the regime's cooperation in the campaign against fundamentalism by offering nuclear concessions to the mullahs are both increasing the chances of a nuclear-armed Iran and contributing to the spread of Islamic fundamentalism.

Only decisiveness will compel the mullahs to accept the aforementioned conditions. The ultimate solution to prevent the nightmare of fundamentalists and extremists becoming nuclear is though firmness, comprehensive sanctions and support for the Iranian people and their Resistance as they strive to change the theocratic regime in Iran.

Attachments:

- Satellite imagery of the Lavizan-3 site
- picture of the shielding door used in Lavizan-3 underground halls

## Satellite imagery of Lavizan 3 site



*Location of Lavizan-3 in northeast Tehran*



*Satellite imagery of Lavizan-3; showing the streets around it; circled marks show the security observation kiosks, and rectangle marks show entrances*





*Lavizan-3 located in a garrison, surrounded by military buildings and facilities*



*Approximate location of the underground tunnel and halls, as well as the elevator in Matiran Company that leads to this underground facility.*

**The image of one of the shielding doors at Lavizan-3 installed at an underground hall**

